

Application No. 10/030,100  
Reply to Office Action of March 31, 2003

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-9 (Canceled).

Claim 10 (New): An embossed carrier tape which comprises a sheet having a tear strength of at least 105 N/mm as defined in Japanese Industrial Standard K-7128-3 and comprising at least one thermoplastic resin other than a polyphenylene ether resin.

Claim 11 (New): The embossed carrier tape according to Claim 10, wherein the sheet has a surface resistance of at least one surface of at most  $10^{12} \Omega/\square$ .

Claim 12 (New): The sheet according to Claim 11 wherein the sheet is a single-layer sheet.

Claim 13 (New): The embossed carrier tape according to Claim 11, wherein the sheet is a multi-layer sheet.

Claim 14 (New): The sheet according to Claim 13, wherein the sheet has a base layer and an electrically conductive surface layer.

Claim 15 (New): An embossed carrier tape which comprises a sheet comprising a thermoplastic resin, having a base layer and a surface layer having a surface resistance of at most  $10^{12} \Omega/\square$  on both sides of the base layer, and having a tear strength of at least 105/mm as defined the Japanese Industrial Standard K-7128-3.

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DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT

The Abstract has been replaced with a simplified, one-paragraph Abstract.

All the claims have been canceled and replaced with new Claims 10-15, all drawn to an embossed carrier tape, and supported by the original claims and the paragraph bridging pages 3 and 4 of the specification, especially page 4, line 4. As polyphenylene ether resin is described as an applicable, but not necessary, thermoplastic resin, it is not new matter to exclude it from the claims. See *In re Johnson*, 558 F.2d 1008, 194 USPQ 187 (CCPA 1977) (copy enclosed) (holding that a claim to a genus with a recital of a negative proviso that did not appear in the specification complied with the description requirement)

No new matter has been added by the above amendment. Claims 10-15 are now pending in the application.